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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

STAFF

DATE-TIME GROUP 161827Z

DIRECTOR

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER 125981

CONF: SA/DDO INFO: FILE

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DISSEM BY:

TO: LISBON, INFO LONDON, MEXICO CITY.

RYBAT WNINTEL RNVIEW

1. U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS WHO CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING HAS TOLD STATE THAT THEY INTEND TO PURSUE LEADS IN PORTUGAL, UK AND MEXICO RELATING TO JAMES EARL RAY, CURRENTLY SERVING TIME FOR KING MURDER. THEY BASING THIS INTEREST ON INFORMATION THAT RAY WAS IN LISBON BRIEFLY IN MAY 1968, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS APPREHENSION IN LONDON IN JUNE 1968.

2. MR. G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR OF COMMITTEE SAYS SELECT COMMITTEE TOLD STATE THAT HE WANTS TO ESTABLISH "CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH APPROPRIATE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL POLICE AND HOPES TO ENLIST THEIR ASSISTANCE INCLUDING ACCESS TO THEIR FILES AND IN LOCATING AND INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL WITNESSES.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS SOLICITED EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW BLAKEY SHOULD PROCEED.

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4. WISH TO CALL ABOVE TO ADDRESSEES' ATTENTION IN EVENT STATIONS ARE SOLICITED FOR ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE. RTACTION IS COOPERATING FULLY WITH BLAKEY AND COMMITTEE INCLUDING ALLOWING THEM ACCESS TO DIRECTORATE RECORDS, AFTER SUITABLE SANITIZATION FOR SOURCES AND METHODS. HOWEVER, BELIEVE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW POLICE AND WITNESSES AND RESULTING USEFUL INFORMATION OBTAINED, IF ANY, IS LARGELY OVERT FUNCTION WHICH CAN BEST BE HANDLED BY LEGATTS OR OTHERS WHO WOULD ALSO BE IN A POSITION TO BE PUBLICLY QUOTED OR IDENTIFIED IF NECESSARY. Y

5. STATIONS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE EMBASSY BEST ADVICE IF SOLICITED BUT REQUESTED TO AVOID INVOLVING STATION OFFICERS IN NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IN THEIR COVER CAPACITIES. IF CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH THAT THIS UNAVOIDABLE, PLEASE ADVISE HQS BY CABLE SO THAT THE MATTER CAN BE APPROPRIATELY HANDLED WITH BLAKEY AND DEPARTMENT. H

ORIG: O/SA/DO/O {SOVERN}; COORD: OLC {CUMMINS}, DC/LA {LAUDER}, C/LA/~~MEX~~ MGSB ~~{[illegible]}~~ {HAWKINS}, DC/EUR/BC ~~{[illegible]}~~ {JAMES}, C/EUR/IB {BERGER}; AUTH: SA/DO/O {KATROSH}; REL: DC/EUR {ESTES}.

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 1977
ORIG: MASOVERN
UNIT: O/SA/DO/O
EXT: 1542

C/LA/STAFF B-16 [illegible]

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